

Message Text

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UNCLAS JIDDA 8434

FOR WANDA ALE OIM/SAD

PLS PASS TO YINGLING, MARYLAND STATE INTERNATIONAL TRADE DIVISION

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BEXP, SA
SUBJECT: MARYLAND STATE IOGA TRADE MISSION - RIAYDH PORTION

REF: JIDDA 8350

1. JOHN GATCH VISITED RIYADH FOR TWO DAYS AND IS STRONGLY CONVINCED MISSION SHOULD EXTEND WORKING DAYS THERE THROUGH JANUARY 24. PLS ADVISE MISSION MEMBERS THAT GATCH HAS CONFIRMED SIX DOUBLE ROOMS, RIAYDH INTERCONTINENTAL FOR NIGHTS JANUARY 21 THROUGH 24 AND CANCELLED SUITE. HOTEL RATES ARE SO HIGH AND RESERVATIONS SO SCARCE THAT MEMBERS WILL HAVE TO BEAR SLIGHT INCONVENIENCE OF DOUBLING UP FOR THAT PERIOD. GATCH DEPOSITED 400 DOLLARS AND HOTEL HAS AGREED MAKE SPACE AVAILABLE FOR RECEPTION EVENING JANUARY 24 DURING WHICH FILM CAN BE SHOWN.

2. GATCH MET COL. ANDERSON OF US CORPS OF ENGINEERS WHO BRIEFED HIM ON TREMENDOUS SCOPE OF MINISTRY OF DEFENSE AND SAUDI NATIONAL GUARD CURRENT AND PLANNED PROJECTS WHICH COE SUPERVISES. THESE ENCOMPASS MANY DIFFERENT TYPES OF CONSTRUCTION, INCLUDING SUBSTANTIAL MEDICAL FACILITIES. HE AGREED BRIEF MISSION IN RIYADH, AND WILL EXPLAIN PRE-QUALIFICATION PROCEDURES FOR U.S. FIRMS. (RTKL, FRIESEN, HENRY ADAMS, INC. AND GREENHORNE AND UNCLASSIFIED

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O'MARA HAVE ALREADY STARTED THESE PROCEDURES).

3. GATCH ALSO MET WITH SAUDI COL. DUWAIDI OF PUBLIC SECURITY WHO BRIEFED HIM ON LARGE SCALE PUBLIC SECURITY HOSPITAL PROGRAM WHICH ENVISAGES CONSTRUCTION OF CENTRAL HOSPITAL IN RIYDH AND FOUR SATELLITE HOSPITALS IN DIFFERENT AREAS OF KINDOM. THIS PROJECT LOOKS PROMISING FOR MISSION. IT WILL BE SUPERVISED DIRECTLY BY MINISTRY OF INTERIOR. IN THIS COE WILL NOT BE INVOLVED, BUT FIRMS AGAIN MUST GO THROUGH A PRE-QUALIFYING PROCESS. COL. DUWAIDI AGREED MEET WITH MISSION MEMBERS FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION THIS PROJECT.

4. GATCH ALSO MET DIRECTOR OF RIYADH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, U.S. JOINT ECONOMIC COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVE, AND HEAD OF ARAMCO RIYADH OFFICE. OPTIMUM RIYADH PROGRAM WOULD BE TO SPEND THURSDAY, JANUARY 22 SEEING RIYADH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, COE, TREASURY REP AND ARAMCO, PLUS VISIT TO KING FAISAL HOSPITAL. SATURDAY, JANUARY 24 WOULD BE SPENT SEEING APPROPRIATE MINISTRY OFFICIALS. RIAYDH PROGRAM WOULD CONCLUDE WITH SATURDAY EVENING RECEPTION.

5. ASSUMING MISSION MEMBERS AGREE WITH FOREGOING, RECOMMEND ADJUSTMENT OF AIRLINE SCHEDULES ACCORDINGLY. AS SOON AS APPROVED, POST WILL SUBMIT TENTATIVE SCHEDULE ALONG THESE LINES.

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